MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

28 MAY 1981

Lebanese Crisis

Habib Mission--In a statement made before leaving for the United States and broadcast by IDF radio, U.S. special envoy Philip Habib said he is returning to Washington for consultations but will return to the Middle East next week to continue his mission. In remarks broadcast by IDF radio, Prime Minister Menahem Begin said Israel will make efforts to allow the diplomatic initiative to continue despite its lack of success so far. He said the Syrians have recently called up tens of thousands of their reserve soldiers, have again strengthened their missile deployment, though not by much, and have issued "noisy and flashy declarations." Israel has reacted coolly to this, he asserted, but he admitted that the situation has worsened. A senior Israeli security source told Jerusalem radio that from Israel's point of view Habib's mission has failed since its primary objective--the removal of the missiles--has not been attained. However, IDF radio, citing Israeli newspapers, reported today that Begin promised Habib that Israel will not regard his return to the United States as a failure of his mission but as another step in the diplomatic efforts to solve the conflict. The radio said Begin entrusted Habib with a message for President Ronald Reagan in which he agrees to proceed with the political process despite the exacerbation of the conflict.

Arab Diplomacy--In remarks broadcast by Beirut radio after his meeting with Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis, Saudi Arabia's ambassador to Lebanon said his country will give Lebanon 100 million Lebanese pounds for the implementation of civil projects and for humanitarian aid. Saudi Arabia's diplomatic contacts to defuse the crisis are continuing, he said, reiterating Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz's recently stated opinion that the missile crisis has been artificially created by Israel to divert attention from the real Lebanese issue. The radio reported that after a Lebanese Cabinet meeting, Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan said the Arab followup committee will probably meet in Lebanon early next week. A related radio report said its aim will be to implement the resolutions of the recent Arab foreign ministers conference in Tunis. According to KUNA, a Lebanese Government official has disclosed that President Sarkis is to launch confidential consultations with the leaders of Syria, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to work out a plan to avert a major Israeli strike in Lebanon aimed at forcing the Lebanese Government to sign a peace treaty with Israel.

PLO Contacts, Khalaf Interview--the clandestine Voice of Palestine radio reported that PLO Political Department chief Faruq Qaddumi met in Beirut with Soviet Ambassador Aleksandr Soldatov. Damascus radio said PLO Executive Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and other Palestinian leaders held talks in Damascus with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. In a 25 May report on its interview with Fatah deputy leader Salah Khalaf, the Beirut weekly MONDAY MORNING quoted him as saying that an Israeli attack on Syrian missiles in the Al-Biqa' valley would spark a total war between Syria and Israel. According to Khalaf, a war would force the Soviet Union to throw its weight behind Syria to restore the Arab-Israeli balance of power and would run the risk of superpower confrontation. For that reason, he concluded, the chances of an Israeli attack have decreased, and the risk of war is now 30 to 40 percent. Khalaf predicted that if Israel were forced into a diplomatic retreat, Israeli Prime Minister Begin would probably try to save face by mounting major attacks on southern Lebanon, short of a major invasion, and by launching a campaign of assassinations against Palestinian and other leaders. According to MONDAY MORNING, Khalaf also said the PLO would be ready to discuss the regulation of the armed Palestinian presence in Lebanon, but only after a Lebanese national accord.

Syrian Warning--Comment on Israeli Prime Minister Begin's current emphasis on diplomacy, the daily TISHRIN, reviewed by Damascus radio, said Begin's change of tone may be an attempt to make the Arabs drop their guard and allow Israel to launch a military adventure against the Palestinian resistance or the Arab Deterrent Forces in Lebanon, or even against Syria itself, it would be a big mistake to rule out the possibility of an Israeli military adventure, TISHRIN warned.

Eytan Interview--In a Jerusalem radio interview Israeli Chief of Staff Lt Gen Rafa'el Eytan said Syria's recent military preparations are not those of a peacetime routine. He said the Syrians want to implement their longstanding promise to protect Palestinian forces in Lebanon against Israel. Israel is following the changes in Syria's military deployment and is preparing itself accordingly, he said. Eytan also said Israel will treat Libyan forces in Lebanon as "terrorists," just as it treats the Palestinians.

Gulf Summit

Working Paper--A working paper appended to the final statement issued at the close of the Gulf Cooperation Council summit in Abu Dhabi said joint cooperation is appropriate in view of the present circumstances in the Gulf region. The paper, transmitted textually by GULF NEWS AGENCY, noted that the Gulf states' location and oil resources make them vulnerable to international and political designs amounting almost to blackmail. It also detailed the responsibilities of five committees set up to advance the council's cooperation goals.

Bisharah Press Conference--According to GULF NEWS AGENCY, 'Abdallah Ya'qub Bisharah, secretary general of the Gulf Cooperation Council, held a press conference in Aub Dhabi in which he affirmed that the member states object to foreign intervention, the establishment of bases and the presence of fleets and foreign influence in the Gulf region. He described the council as both strengthening and bolstering the Arab League but pointed out that in the council's charter priority is given to economic issues rather than politics.

Al Nuhayyan Press Conference--In remarks at an Abu Dhabi press conference, carried by the EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY, UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan said the Gulf states shall dispense with any foreign protection since they are capable of protecting themselves. With regard to the situation in Lebanon, the president said the Arabs will spare no efforts to prevent usurpation and aggression. Zayid also said he expects closer cooperation among the armed forces of the council states. Referring to the issue of the islands of Abu Musa and the Greater and Lesser Tunbs, he said that there is proof that the islands are Arab but that the UAE will not try to seize the islands "in a nonbrotherly way."

Iran

Khomeyni Speech--In a speech to Majlis deputies, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni said that the Majlis is the nation's highest authority and that no one has the right to comment on something that has been approved by it and the Council of Guardians. In his speech, a recording of which was carried by Tehran radio, Khomeyni also warned that anyone who tells the people that the work of the Majlis and Council of Guardians is based on falsehood is corrupt and should be tried. He also cautioned that whoever finds something he does not agree with should correct his own views rather than expect the Majlis and Council of Guardians to change theirs. Khomeyni warned that the people support the Majlis, government and president of the republic only insofar as they follow the path of Islam. He said all organizations want to become Islamic but that it takes time. He also said he would oppose the president or prime minister if he oversteps his jurisdiction, and he noted that the limits of the Majlis should be defined.

Beheshti Interview--In an interview broadcast by Tehran radio, Iranian Supreme Court President Ayatollah Mohammad Hoseyn Beheshti said that the three-man committee investigating differences among the Iranian leadership should carry out its duties and that then the judiciary will act. According to AFP, Beheshti also characterized President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr's call for a referendum on the leadership question as "weakening the Islamic Republic, the Constitution, the government and parliament" and charged him with twice violating the Constitution.

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GANDHI SPEAKS ON RELATIONS WITH SOVIET UNION

BK270943 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 27 May 81

[Text] Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi has said that India's friendship with the Soviet Union is not directed against any other nation and its genuineness cannot be questioned. Mrs Gandhi was opening the first national convention of Friends of the Soviet Union in New Delhi today coinciding with the 17th death anniversary of Jawaharlal Nehru.

Describing Jawaharlal Nehru as the architect of Indo-Soviet friendship, Mrs Gandhi said several attempts had been made to dilute his idea. But the correctness of his policy is being realized with every passing day. She pointed out that one of the main tenets of the Nehru path is coexistence, irrespective of a nation's internal system. One's friendship need not be at the cost of another. Mrs Gandhi reaffirmed that Indo-Soviet friendship has been a time-tested one. It is based on coexistence and mutual respect irrespective of the different internal systems adopted by the two countries.

Referring to the policy of nonalignment the prime minister said that it is her positive endeavor to improve the prospects of peace. It also helps in pursuing with conviction matters like the fight against racism and colonialism. She said the Soviet Union has been consistent in its stand on such issues. This has brought the two countries closer to each other.

Mrs Gandhi also inaugurated an exhibition, entitled "Friendship--Our Heritage," presented by the Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

CREDIT AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH SRV IN NEW DELHI

BK270929 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 0916 GMT 27 May 81

[Text] A credit agreement was signed in New Delhi on May 26 between India and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. Under the agreement, India will extend a loan of rupees 10 crores to the Government of Vietnam for importing from India Indian textile fabrics for garments. The loan is repayable in 4 years with a moratorium of about 2 years and will carry an interest rate of 5 percent per annum. R.N. Malhotra, secretary in the Department of Economic Affairs (Ministry of Finance), signed on behalf of the Government of India and Nguyen Quang Tao, Vietnam ambassador in India, on behalf of the Government of Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

ANOTHER CONGRESS-U MEMBER RESIGNS FROM PARTY

BK271255 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 27 May 81

[Text] Bali Ram Bhagat, Congress-U member of the Lok Sabha, has resigned from the primary membership of the party. In his letter of resignation to Congress-U President Devraj Urs, he said in the present context of national politics the Congress-U has ceased to have any relevance at all. The Congress-I is the real congress, he added.

Later, Bhagat told UNITED NEWS OF INDIA that he is joining the Congress-I like Y.B. Chavan and several others. He said he will discuss with Chavan their future course of action.

WALDHEIM BRIEFS UN ENVOY ON TALKS WITH SOVIETS

BK280815 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 28 May 81

[Text] UN Secretary General Dr Kurt Waldheim appraised Pakistan's ambassador to the United Nations, Niaz A. Naik, about his talks with the Soviet leaders in Moscow early this month. During his visit to the Soviet Union, the secretary general had held talks with President Brezhnev and Foreign Minister Gromyko on international issues, including Afghanistan. Mr Perez Decuellar, personal representative of the secretary general on Afghanistan, also accompanied him.

ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN, quoting knowledgeable sources in New York, reports that the secretary general told Pakistan's ambassador that the Soviet leaders supported the efforts he and his personal representative were making to solve the Afghanistan issue through negotiations, and their attitude was constructive.

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED FOLLOWING ROBERT MUGABE VISIT

BK270959 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 26 May 81

[Text] Pakistan and Zimbabwe have called for immediate withdrawal of all foreign troops from Afghanistan and the restoration of its independent and nonaligned status. This has been stated in a joint communique issued at the end of the 4-day official visit to Pakistan by Prime Minister of Zimbabwe Robert Mugabe.

The two countries described the armed intervention in Afghanistan by a foreign power as serious violation of the norms of good neighborliness. They expressed the hope that the efforts now being made by the UN secretary general will lead to a solution of the Afghanistan crisis.

The joint communique says President Mohammad Ziaul Haq apprised Robert Mugabe of the developments in Afghanistan. The Zimbabwe prime minister appreciated the efforts of the Pakistan Government to look after over 2 million Afghan refugees and emphasized the need for an international assistance program to alleviate the sufferings of the Afghan refugees.

They expressed the hope that suitable conditions would be created to enable the Afghan nationals now seeking shelter in Pakistan to return to their homeland with honor and safety.

They emphasized that a just and stable world order could only be based on the principles of respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity and noninterference in the internal affairs of other countries. They reiterated their conviction to the settlement of disputes through peaceful means and within the framework of the UN Charter.

The communique says the talks between the Pakistan president and the prime minister of Zimbabwe also covered matters of bilateral interest and other important international issues. These talks were marked by close identity of views between the two sides.

The Pakistan president expressed satisfaction over the successful culmination of the struggle for independence of the people of Zimbabwe under the heroic leadership of Mugabe and reaffirmed solidarity with the government and people of Zimbabwe in their endeavor to achieve greater progress and prosperity.

The proposals for further expansion in the cooperation in the fields of agriculture, trade, industry, railway, civil aviation, education, technical training and health were examined. The two sides agreed on several measures to intensify mutual cooperation.

The Pakistan president informed the Zimbabwe prime minister of the efforts of the Islamic Conference Organization to resolve the Iran-Iraq war. They hoped the conflict will be resolved and the people of the two countries would be able to devote their efforts to the reconstruction and development of their countries.

They reiterated their conviction that a just and lasting peace in the Middle East could only be achieved after the total and unconditional withdrawal of Israeli troops from all Arab territories, including Jerusalem. They also affirmed their full solidarity with Lebanon to protect its independence.

The communique says the Pakistan president informed the Zimbabwe prime minister of the steps taken by Pakistan for the normalization of relations with India in the light of the Simla Agreement which provided for a peaceful solution of all pending Indo-Pakistan disputes, including that of Jammu and Kashmir.

They expressed their total support for SWAPO in its efforts to liberate Namibia from the illegal occupation of the racist South African regime which was asked to respond positively to the UN efforts to lead it to a genuine independence. They urged all nations to put maximum pressure on the Pretoria regime to put an end to apartheid.

They also asked the superpowers possessing weapons of mass destruction to take immediate steps to halt and revert their proliferation of armament.

The two leaders asked the Third World countries to pool their resources to derive maximum benefits from each other, achieve self-reliance and thus reduce the (?prosperity) gap between the industrialized and developing nations.

Robert Mugabe invited President Mohammad Ziaul Haq to pay an official visit to Zimbabwe. The invitation was accepted by the president. The date for his visit will be determined later.

Zimbabwe Prime Minister Robert Mugabe and Madam Mugabe were given a warm sendoff when they left Karachi this morning for home.

CONSTITUTION AMENDED TO EXPAND ISLAMIC COURT

BK271025 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 27 May 81

[Text] The president and chief martial law administrator promulgated two orders in Rawalpindi today to amend the Constitution and the Provisional Constitutional Order 1981. Under the amending orders the present strength of five judges of the federal shariat [Islamic] court, including the chairman, has been raised to eight, which will include not more than three ulema.

FORMER ATTORNEY GENERAL BAKHTIAR RELEASED

BK280616 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 28 May 81

[Text] According to ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN, former Attorney General Yahya Bakhtiar has been released. He was detained under martial law Order No 12.

ANTITERRORIST SQUADS FORMED FOLLOWING PIA HIJACK

BK271427 Hong Kong AFP in English 1317 GMT 27 May 81

[Text] Karachi, 28 May [date as received] (AFP)--Specially-trained and armed anti-terrorist police squads have been formed in southern province of Sind following the recent hijacking of a Pakistani airliner to Kabul and Damascus, the inspector general of police, Arbab Hidayatullah, announced here today.

KHOMEYNI RECEIVES MAJLIS DEPUTIES, RAFSANJANI

LD271104 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 May 81

[Text] On the eve of the inauguration of the Islamic Consultative Assembly today, the elected representatives of the people were received by Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in Hoseyniyeh Jamaran.

During this meeting, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the speaker of the Majlis, submitted a report on the performance of the Majlis in the past year to the imam of the nation. Then, the imam of the nation made a very important speech, the text of which will be carried at the end of this bulletin.

Addresses Deputies

GF271652 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 May 81

[Speech delivered by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni to Majlis deputies at Hoseyniyeh Jamaran on 27 May--recorded, duration 57 minutes]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage indistinct] Unfortunately, what I had expected has not been done. I wanted this Majlis to serve as a teacher for the country, for future Majlis members and for future generations. The quality of the deputies should be (?higher) than it has been during the past 50 years. Gentlemen should enjoy tranquil settings and should deal with their problems peacefully. They should be able to express their views and sort out their differences peacefully. Moreover, when it comes to dealing with the country's problems, they should be able to deal with them tranquilly and peacefully.

Reason can be achieved in tranquil settings. Reason becomes veiled whenever anger and fury come to power. Whenever the power of anger starts functioning, it overpowers reasoning and one starts talking without reason. If a judge is angry, he should never issue orders, because issuing an order while in a state of fury is against reasoning and Islamic laws. [passage indistinct]

Critics should be allowed as long as no one or no group is degraded and driven from the scene. Critics are needed for the reconstruction and reformation of affairs.

The devil hidden in the human body is a master in its work. It does not drive mankind to corruption all at once. It moves step by step toward corruption and gradually drives mankind to hell. Those persons among you who are corrupt were not always this way. They have become corrupt gradually. Those who have become dictators were not born dictators. They were just like everyone else. Even when they reached certain positions they were not dictators. However, slowly and gradually, step by step, they went toward dictatorship, and Hitler and Stalin were produced.

I hope the Majlis will pay more attention to its image, which is reflected throughout the country and in other places. When the people look at the Majlis they should not regret that they have chosen such deputies. However, if they do regret their choice they may divert the line they are following.

The Majlis should be understanding and benevolent in directing the nation's affairs. It should also be benevolent when it comes to critics and in answering their charges. The Majlis should be willing to compromise so that when people look at them they will say that they have done the right thing by electing such proper deputies. God forbid that the people ever regret the votes they made.

I repeat that the Majlis is the highest authority in this country. No one has the right to comment about something once the Majlis has approved it and it has been accepted and approved by the Council of Guardians.

I am not saying that people cannot express their views. However, anyone who goes to the people and tells them that the Council of Guardians and the Majlis are based on falsehood is corrupt and should be tried for committing corruption on earth.

When someone has accepted the Majlis, it means that he has accepted Islam. If someone holds non-Islamic views, he should not express them and should not agitate public opinion regarding the Majlis. This is a fundamental issue and everyone should pay attention. Whenever an individual finds something that goes against his views he should not turn and say that the Majlis and the Council of Guardians should correct it. Instead, he should correct himself. This is something common in our nation. I hope the Majlis will remain Islamic and (?devoted). God forbid that it [words indistinct] degrade and insult others, because this goes against the principles of Islam.

What I generally want to say is that this nation revolted and was victorious on the battlefront. It resisted all the powers, defeated the enemies and voted for this republic. Our nation is firmly in place. However, the devils are claiming that the nation is so and so, and they [words indistinct] committing corruption. They are not taking into account the millions of people who--whenever there has been a request to support Islam--have done so. Everyone--except a group that does not believe in Islam--has supported Islam, and when the nation moves they too will merge with it. [Words indistinct] something should be done to satisfy the nation that wants Islam. Is there anything better than Islam that a nation could want?

You should carry out your responsibilities properly. The Iranian nation has voted for the Islamic Republic. It has faithfully exerted all its efforts and strength and has declared that it wants Islam. If you are against Islam you can go to Europe, the United States or anywhere you want, or you can stay here. If you want the nation, do not say repeatedly that the nation is [words indistinct] with me. The nation is with Islam. It is not with me, with you or with anyone else.

If I say a word against Islam, the nation will attack me and destroy me. The nation wants Islam, not individuals. [Words indistinct] the nation wants Islamic laws to be implemented. The nation has put a great deal of effort into restoring Islam in a country where for hundreds of years--and especially the past 50 years--efforts were made to keep Islam away. Efforts were made to keep the clergy away and weaken it. The nation has chosen the clergy in the interest of Islam. God forbid that the clergy should ever act against Islam. The clergy would be Savakists and even worse than Savakists.

The gentlemen who are saying that the people are against the Islamic Republic should abandon this action. You have turned against it. You should treat yourselves and your sick consciences so you will not write that this country is ruined. This country is not ruined. This Islamic Republic is in its place and the people are following the Islamic Republic. The same people are supporting the Majlis, the government and the president of the republic insofar as they are following the path of Islam. If any of you slip, the people will not support you, because the people want Islam. If there was a choice between the prophet and me, which Muslim would choose me? If there was a choice between you and Islam, which Muslim would prefer you to Islam? You should abandon the idea that now [words indistinct] that the people are not the same people. The people want Islam, and they want it forever.

A country that has wallowed in 50, no, 2,500 years of destruction cannot be reformed in a day. You want all organizations to become truly Islamic. This can happen if you allow it to and if those who are finding faults will give it some time. However, you have not let it happen, even if it takes time. You who are Muslims, who have faith in Islam, should give this country--which is being attacked from all sides--some time to recover. At least you should not attack it. We always want problems to be resolved calmly.

There is this nation and it has a clergy. (?Maybe) you will see that there is a clergyman dedicated to Islam who is a source of strength (?to you). Do not be so insistent that the clergy be put aside. After all, what have you achieved in all these years that you can say the clergy should not be here?

This country is behind the people and Islam and considers the clergy to be a symbol of Islam. I do not say that all clergymen are (?authentic). I consider some to be worse than Shimr [general who killed Imam Hoseyn]. I think the clergy have brought Islam to this level. If this clergy had not been there, would we have had Islam? Who has compiled all these issues and controversies and given them to us? [as heard] All this was done by clergymen.

During these past 50 years, all of you can bear witness to how often the clergymen were the ones who rebelled. However, they did not have the means and [words indistinct] they could not do anything. They were the ones who, during the time of Reza Khan, joined forces against him. However, the people were so tyrannized by him that they were defeated.

Beware of the time when an explosion may sweep away all that we have achieved. Fear that time and do not be proud.

I told them at the beginning of the year that this should be the year of the rule of law. We should know our limits. What is the status of the president of the republic according to the Constitution? If he takes even one step in the wrong direction, I will be against him, even if all the people are on his side. What is the exact limit of the prime minister's jurisdiction? He should not overstep his limits, or I will be against him also. The limits of the Majlis should be defined, and it should remain within them. What are the powers of the Council of Guardians? What are the limits of the executive and judiciary? The Constitution has been clearly defined. How can anyone even say that we do not accept the Constitution? How can anyone dare to say this? Do not allow anyone to say that we do not recognize the Council of Guardians. How can they even dare to utter such things? The people have voted for the Constitution, all 16 million of them. Since they have voted for the Constitution, they are the ones who should implement it. When something has become law, criticizing it in order to misguide people makes one a corrupter on earth, and the courts should treat him as such.

You should take notice of these people in the streets and districts in keeping with justice and fairness. They have put you in power, and you should not weaken the president of the republic. You should be afraid of the day when the people may discover what you have in mind. An explosion may occur then. You should be afraid that, God forbid, the day of God will come. On that day there will be no question of finding (?the truth). On that day we will all say our last prayers.

I pray to the Almighty to guide us all in the way that He wishes. May He guide our pens and tongues in the way that He favors. May the peace, mercy and blessing of God be upon you.

Rafsanjani on Meeting

LD272326 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 27 May 81

[Excerpts] According to the Central News Bureau, the Islamic Consultative Assembly held an open session this afternoon. This session began at 1530 with a recitation of some verses from the holy Koran. The session's chairman, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, gave a speech in connection with today's meeting between Majlis deputies and the imam of the nation.

In part he said: It is not possible to become an imam without being eligible for the title; the more we investigate and the more we encounter various problems and difficulties the better we understand the personality of the leader of the revolution.

The imam came to help us at this sensitive moment and the crisis, which we created ourselves, was replaced with calm; the advice of his eminence can remain our guide and solve our problems for a long time to come. We hope that in the future those few friends of ours will not reprimand the majority in the Majlis and will try to perform their duties as Majlis deputies within the framework of Islamic regulations.

He reiterated: The second part of the imam's speech revived the Majlis and made the Majlis ask questions and gave status to the Majlis, which it deserves, so that the majority in the Majlis would be able--in cooperation with the Council of Guardians--to approve what the people demand. This will allow the Majlis to perform its important duty as a legislative body.

The speaker of the Majlis said: We ask the people to observe the work of the Majlis, so that it becomes clear who disobeys the imam's decree in the Majlis.

He concluded his remarks by wishing good health to the leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic.

The Majlis session will continue until 2100. The next Majlis session will be held at 0700 tomorrow.

KHOMEYNI CONFERS WITH SUPREME JUDICIAL COUNCIL

LD271244 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 May 81

[Text] According to the Central News Bureau, the members of the Supreme Judicial Council met and conferred with Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, this morning.

Beheshti Interviewed

LD271930 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 27 May 81

[Interview with Ayatollah Mohammad Hoseyn Beheshti, president of the Supreme Court, held with unidentified correspondents on 27 May--recorded]

[Text] [Question] Mr Beheshti, you were received by the imam this morning together with members of the Supreme Judicial Council. What subjects were discussed and what were the imam's decrees?

[Answer] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. During the past 2 or 3 weeks some matters surfaced which you and all the people are aware of. Some things have been done.... [break in transmission] According to the Constitution they must do their duty under his supervision and discuss matters so that the leader's supervision is completely implemented. We discussed matters in detail with the imam. We talked about the dangers that lie ahead, the plots underway and the lawful duties of the judiciary. We told him that the honor of the revolution and that of Islam, as well as of the judiciary, requires one to act decisively and broadly. It is natural that he is of the same opinion. It is natural, therefore, that we tell all those who are involved in activities which may upset the quiet atmosphere, who damage our nation's readiness for battle and possibly cause some (?shakiness) in our opposition to the enemy, that they should take heed and consider the present difficulties we are facing. They should also respect the Constitution and the Godly duties that are on the shoulders of each and every one of us; otherwise, the judiciary and all the authorities of this system will act decisively on the basis of its lawful duties outlined in the Constitution and other approved laws. We want the heroic nation to be aware and informed. Of course, if anything happens, those in authority will give complete explanations for the benefit of the people so that the nation supports the effective activities of the judiciary with complete awareness.

We hope that the Almighty is with us on this road and aids us so that we can do our duties --our Godly duties, human duties, popular duties, social duties--on the basis of the desires of pure hearts that are beating very strongly for the love of Islam and the revolution in this society--and without any worldly desires or mixing this with other matters.

[Question] Mr Beheshti, it seems, in what has been said, that there have been attempts at creating a certain atmosphere by some newspapers. What is the role of the three-man mediation committee in this matter? Is this not an overlap of duties between the judiciary and the three-man committee?

[Answer] Of course, on the basis of the 10-point statement by the imam, the three-man committee--appointed by the imam, the president and the government, (?I) mean the prime minister and the person responsible for the affairs of the country, the Majlis speaker--should carry out its duties and refer to the judiciary. The judiciary will then do its work. When I said the judiciary will act, I meant after decisive action by the three-man mediation team. We and all the people expect the committee to deal with these problems more decisively than before so that there will be no ambiguity or worries for the people.

During workdays I repeatedly come across youths and widespread revolutionary forces who ask what their duties are. We always tell them that our duties are to carry out our tasks within the framework of the law and orders by the superiors.

BEHESHTI ON TV DISCUSSIONS, CONTROVERSY, PURGES

LD270948 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 27 May 81

[Text] As part of the work of the conference of government officials and members of the Majlis and the judiciary, Mr Beheshti, president of the country's Supreme Court, took part yesterday afternoon in a gathering of the students of Qom religious seminary and talked about free discussions on television, the Supreme Judicial Council, various groups and the purging of the pseudoclergymen.

As regards free discussions on television, the president of the Supreme Court said: Various groups try to raise disconnected and partisan issues instead of talking about fundamental issues while we try to use these opportunities in order to raise religious and intellectual issues.

He added: Another problem is their raising of slogans instead of basic issues. It seems that their existence and continuation is dependent upon their slogans. When they discuss something free of their slogans they feel they cannot win. The president of the Supreme Court said: One gentleman in one of the preliminary meetings said that monopolism has reached the point where even when we take part in a gathering we feel imprisoned. We say: The reason for this is that fighting forces are afraid of your treason.

As regards the Supreme Judicial Council, he said: Concerning the accusations leveled against the Supreme Judicial Council, we have given answers to the extent of not upsetting the atmosphere. Concerning the letter of Mr Bani-Sadr, we wrote to the three-man mediation committee, and the committee has said that the Supreme Judicial Council can defend itself. Press controversy creates a bad effect on public opinion. The strength of society should not be wasted in vain on these controversies; people should not be given the idea that we have taken part in a revolution and have made sacrifices while others are engaged in newspaper battles.

As regards the purging of pseudoclergymen, the president of the Supreme Judicial Council said: The true remedy will not be found in defrocking, imprisonment, exile and execution. The root of the matter can be treated through divulgence and revelation.

He said: If nothing is said about the past misdeeds of some pseudoclergymen, it is because they have pledged not to act against the revolution and against the people. If they trample upon this pledge and if they treat lightly the blood of martyrs they will receive punishment for their misdeeds committed both before and after the revolution.

AFP: BEHESHTI REJECTS BANI-SADR REFERENDUM PLAN

NC271453 Paris AFP in English 1445 GMT 27 May 81

[Text] Tehran, 27 May (AFP)--President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr's plan for a referendum to settle disputes in the Iranian leadership aims at "weakening the Islamic Republic, the Constitution, the government and parliament", Supreme Court Chief Ayatollah Mohammad Beheshti said today.

Mr Bani-Sadr asked last week that a referendum be called to settle an eight-month tussle for authority between himself and Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i's fundamentalist government.

Ayatollah Beheshti's stand appeared today to squash plans for a referendum as this would need the approval of two thirds of parliament, in which the judge's Islamic Republican Party holds a large majority.

The ayatollah made the charge at a press conference and went on to accuse President Bani-Sadr of twice violating the Constitution. He alleged that the president had failed to give the Supreme Court a list of all his and his family's assets, and had refused to ratify a decree assigning the vacant Foreign Ministry portfolio to Mr Raja'i.

PROCEEDINGS AGAINST TEHRAN PROSECUTOR DEMANDED

LD271339 Tehran ENQELAB-E ESLAMI in Persian 17 May 81 p 12

[Unattributed report: "President Asks for Criminal Proceedings To Be Taken Against the Tehran Revolution Prosecutor"]

[Text] Following the detention in custody of engineer Reza Masmu'i for several hours after he had attended court to give evidence at the trial of Amir-Entezam on 26 April and the confiscation of documents in his possession (a full account of this appeared in MIZAN, edition No 177 of 27 April, engineer Masmu'i sent a letter to the presidential secretariat complaining of the incident, and the presidential office subsequently wrote to the Tehran General Prosecutions Office demanding criminal proceedings against the accused (Mr Lajvardi, Tehran revolution prosecutor-general), on a charge of forcible seizure of evidence and documents. The text of the letter read as follows:

In His almighty name. General Prosecutions Office, Tehran. In accordance with instructions from the presidency, we enclose herewith a complaint dated 2 May by engineer Reza Masmu'i, witness at the trial of 'Abbas Amir-Entezam. As the complainant has stated, he was detained on order of the Tehran revolution prosecutor on the day he attended court to give evidence; documentary evidence and personal papers were taken from him by force, and these have not yet been returned despite repeated requests.

Since the charge against Mr Lajvardi of forcible seizure of evidence comes under article 233 of the general penal code and entails malicious acts committed during the course of the trial of Amir-Entezam, this charge will if proven be subject to the provisions of article 254 of the aforementioned code.

Details of legal proceedings being taken against the accused are to be announced.

[Signed] Reza Taqva, chief of presidential office, 17 May

FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT ON THEFT OF DOCUMENTS

LD271825 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 27 May 81

[Statement issued 27 May by the Foreign Ministry Public Relations Office]

[Text] In His exalted name. We have felt it necessary to issue a statement which contains some explanatory points for the benefit of our martyr-nurturing people relating to false issues raised by some authorities [presumed to be referring to Bani-Sadr statements] and some newspapers concerning the theft of the ministry's secret documents. However, we decided against this in view of the 10-point decree issued by the imam of the nation which suggested that every authority and the zealous Iranian nation attempt to maintain unity in the Islamic society; to eliminate unrest and agitation and to maintain the correct implementation of the law. Instead, we will refer our points to the respected revolution prosecutor's office, the national chief justice and the three-man mediation committee. Hopefully, with an immediate investigation of the matter by the judiciary a positive step will be taken in bringing the Islamic revolution into fruition.

CABINET APPROVES MEASURES ON RURAL SERVICES

LD271242 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 May 81

[Text] According to the Central News Bureau, the Cabinet held a session at 0600 today.

During this session, the minister of state for executive affairs submitted a comprehensive report on the performance of the country's economic mobilization headquarters and the successes achieved in this field, especially considering the severe shortage of some consumer goods, before the implementation of the projects of the economic mobilization headquarters and the creation of the present regional balance.

The general project for centers of rural services was discussed and approved. According to this, the centers for rural and tribal services will have the responsibility of coordinating or implementing all agricultural, cultural, welfare, health, development, technical and economic programs and services, in accordance with the policies of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and on the basis of the direct and all-round cooperation of the public.

The reconstruction crusade will be assigned to establish the centers of rural services, acting on the basis of general guidelines, policies and programs of the said centers to be approved by the Cabinet.

The Cabinet session adjourned at 1030.

JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE 515 REPORTS ON BATTLES

LD272014 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 27 May 81

[Communique 515 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Dear Muslim compatriots: The situation on the battlefronts and the operations carried out by the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the past 24 hours are brought to your attention as follows:

Yesterday, on the fronts of western Dezful, the self-sacrificing units of the ground forces returned enemy fire and did not give the enemy forces an opportunity for the slightest movement; they crushed their positions, killed or wounded a number of their personnel and set ablaze and destroyed three vehicles, two tanks, two personnel carriers, four observation and heavy-machinegun trenches and one ammunition dump.

On the same fronts, our combatants deployed intense artillery fire on the enemy positions and did not give the Iraqi forces any opportunity for movement or traffic; having silenced their artillery and other fire, they killed or wounded approximately 70 of the Saddamist forces. In these operations, three tanks, two trucks, two guns and one ammunition dump of the enemy were destroyed, while heavy damage was inflicted on three tanks, two radios and one radar unit.

Exchanges of fire continue on the Abadan and Khuninshahr fronts. As a result of the artillery and heavy-weapons fire of the combatants of our armed forces based on these fronts, 4 tanks, 2 personnel carriers, 4 trucks, 1 mortar, 2 ammunition dumps, 1 observation post and more than 12 slit and heavy-weapon trenches of the enemy were destroyed and a considerable number of their personnel were either killed or wounded. In these operations one Katyusha missile launcher belonging to the Iraqi forces was damaged.

In the battles on the Khuninshahr fronts the devotees of the navy, returning fire by the Iraqi forces, set fire to one ammunition dump, destroyed several slit trenches and a foxhole belonging to the enemy and killed or wounded a number of the enemy forces.

Yesterday part of the city of Abadan again came under fire from the artillery and heavy weapons of the forces of the Iraqi Army; several residential buildings were damaged.

Yesterday, on most of fronts in the west of the country, exchanges of artillery and heavy-weapons fire between our forces and the enemy were continuing. In the Panjwin region, our forces destroyed three slit trenches and two machineguns belonging to the Saddamist mercenaries and killed a number of them. On another front in the Marivan region, our forces halted an enemy attack and returned their fire.

Yesterday in Sar Dasht, three Muslim Iraqi soldiers surrendered to the forces of Islam and sought asylum; they were warmly welcomed.

The heroes of the gendarmerie, who are ready to give their lives, brought enemy positions on one of the Qasr-e Shirin fronts under fire and destroyed a 106-mm gun and four trenches belonging to the forces of the Iraqi Army and killed or wounded their crewmembers.

Yesterday a number of Iraqi Army aircraft violated the airspace of several border cities in the west and south of the country; the enemy aircraft were forced to flee from the intense fire of the vigilant air defense combatants of our forces based in the regions.

During a battle on 25 May, the steadfast self-sacrificers of the ground forces withstood intense fire from the enemy's artillery and long-range weapons. Having 100-percent-offensive morale on the fronts, they committed sacrifices in routing and annihilating the enemy, sacrificing 32 of their comrades in achieving final victory. Also, on the same day the Gendarmerie and the Police of the Islamic Republic of Iran suffered one martyr each. May their pure souls rest in peace.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

GUARDS CORPS STATEMENT ON BATTLE SUCCESSES

LD272332 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 27 May 81

[Summary] The Public Relations Office of the central headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps has issued a statement describing the activities of the combatants of Islam against the forces of blasphemy in the last few days as follows:

Western fronts:

1. In the Marivan region, mortar fire by the guards destroyed four Iraqi Zil vehicles, one ammunition dump and several enemy trenches.

On 24 May, during a series of mopping-up operations along the Marivan-Saqqez-Baneh axis, our brother guards, army and gendarmerie forces killed 23 bandits and wounded a large number of counterrevolutionaries who were fighting alongside Saddam's mercenary soldiers in these regions. The forces of the revolution suffered no losses during these operations. Revolution guards also mopped up the villages of Panjeh and Gargar in the Ghorveh region. During these mopping-up operations, several armed counterrevolutionary bandits were either killed or wounded.

Yesterday revolution guards corps and army brothers were dispatched to mop up the village of Gilaneh, southwest of Sanandaj. These operations were carried out with the full cooperation of Muslim Kurdish peshmerga and our brothers in the Airborne Division and, during a clash, many of the armed bandits were killed or wounded. During these operations, one of our Muslim Kurdish peshmerga, one self-sacrificing guard and one member of the mobilization forces gained the exalted status of martyrdom.

On 25 May the forces of Islam opened heavy-weapons fire on Iraqi positions in the Panjwin region; five Saddamists were killed and three trenches and several light and heavy weapons were destroyed.

On 23 May Iraqi Ba'thist positions in the Buban garrison came under artillery fire from combatants of the revolution; approximately 50 of Saddam's mercenary soldiers were killed and more than 12 of their vehicles were destroyed. Enemy ammunition tents were also set on fire.

2. Yesterday, an Iraqi military column of personnel and vehicles on the Kharmal Road leading toward (?Iraqi-held) Biarreh, came under artillery fire from the warriors of Islam on the Marivan border strip. A large number of the enemy vehicles were destroyed and the military column was routed.

3. The forces of Islam opened mortar fire on the Uraman heights, where the Rastegari counterrevolutionaries were stationed, killing several mercenaries. One heavy weapon of the bandits was also destroyed.

Southern fronts:

1. Revolution guards opened fire and inflicted loss and damage on Saddam's invading mercenaries in the occupied part of Khuninshahr as follows: Four 75-caliber machinegun trenches, three RPG-7 gun trenches and three other trenches were destroyed and several enemy soldiers were killed.

2. The guards' mortar fire destroyed an enemy vehicle and a trench on the other side of the Arvand Rud [Shatt al-'Arab].

3. Several enemy trenches were destroyed on the Kut-e Sheykh and Station No 7 fronts of Abadan.

SANANDAJ GUARDS KILL 'COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY AGENTS'

LD270926 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0815 GMT 27 May 81

[Text] Dear friends: We have a few reports from the Public Relations Office of the central headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps:

We have a report from the guards corps of (?Nurabad) in Lorestan, saying that on 24 May the antinarcotics group of the brother guards discovered 270 kg of opium from two smugglers. According to the press office of the Sanandaj guards corps, with the coordination of the brothers in the Army of the Islamic Republic, the guard corps and the gendarmerie stationed in Marivan, the areas of Kenareh, Marivan and Saqqez were cleansed of counterrevolutionary agents who had been fighting against the forces of revolution alongside the Ba'thist mercenaries. Twenty-three of these mercenary agents, led by a person named 'Ali Marivani, were killed and a number of them were injured. The rest of the traitors fled and our forces returned to their bases without any casualties.

VOICE OF IRAN REPORTS SOVIET EXPERTS IN GILAN

NC281115 (Clandestine) Voice of Iran in Persian 1805 GMT 27 May 81

[Text] A Voice of Iran correspondent sent to northern Iran on a mission has reported that a large number of Soviet experts have been stationed in the Gilan forests, that officials of the Iranian regime are aware of this and that every day members of the Feda'iyan-e Eslam group are trained in (?terrorism) and sabotage.

It is necessary to note that the Feda'iyan-e Eslam group is led by Sheykh Sadeq Khalkhali, whose hands are stained with the blood of hundreds of Iranian patriots.

Our correspondent adds that recently two Soviet agents who were shopping for food [word indistinct] together with their security guide were harassed by a number of youths in the city.

Political (?observers) do not doubt that in addition to gathering confidential information for spies of the Soviet Embassy in Tehran, the Tudeh Party is now training terrorists and kidnappers.

VOICE OF IRAN ON NEW 'OPPRESSIVE' RAJA'I MEASURES

NC271354 (Clandestine) Voice of Iran in Persian 1805 GMT 26 May 81

[Text] Our radio correspondents have reported from various parts of the country that due to the regime's opponents' intensified activities, the ruling party and Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i's fundamentalist government launched more intensive propaganda and stronger action to crush and discredit patriotic opponents.

Our correspondents add: Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i's fundamentalist government--in an effort to occupy the minds of the people who are fed up with lack of programming, high prices, inflation, famine, unemployment, corruption, war and the refugee problem it creates, which are just some of the hundreds of problems--sees no other alternative than using the following accusations and propaganda in overcoming his opponents and, in doing so, form new courts for possible trial and execution of yet another group of patriots and supporters of the Constitution, who recently have started fighting the oppressive and murderous regime of Ruhollah Khomeyni publicly and bravely.

These accusations and propaganda platforms are: the placing of Ayatollah Khomeyni's grandson Seyyed Hoseyn Khomeyni under house arrest because of recent remarks that the ruling class of Iran consists of a number of fascists and despots and that the nation should rise to overthrow this rule; the summons and possible arrest of Daryush Foruhar on charges of profanity against the Islamic Republic and for comparing the present rule with the past regime; the prosecutor general's summons of Dr Karim Sanjabi and 'Ali Asghar Hajj Seyyed Javadi; denial of permission to hold antiregime demonstrations, which were to take place in Tehran on Monday; the arrest of three Bani-Sadr supporters on charges of intent to steal confidential documents from the Foreign Ministry; attacks by supporters of the Islamic Republican Party in the clerical Majlis against opponents; and finally, remarks by a revolution guards corps commander on the arrest of a group of patriots, who intended to destroy the clerical regime, and that this group was in contact with full-fledged opponents of the Islamic Republican regime, including the young shah.